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SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know the steps taken by the Government to convert them again into forests? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have taken up a programme of planting 150 acres in each of the ranges in this State."

Constitution of Prohibition Committees.

* 114 *Q*.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the present district and taluk prohibition committees in the State were constituted and what is their duration; and

(*b*) what is the criterion, and who is the authority, for selecting the non-official personnel to these committees?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) There is no specific date on which such committees were formed; but they were formed between 1947 and 1949. No term of office has been fixed for these committees.

" (*b*) All M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. in the district are, as a rule, nominated. As regards others, the Revenue Divisional Officers nominate members to the taluk committees and Collectors to the district committees. No hard-and-fast rule has been prescribed for nomination but generally members of the non-official public who are prepared to assist the enforcement staff in giving advice and assistance, are selected."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, I find that all non-official personnel of the committees belong to the Congress party which has got only party interests and not social interests in mind. Will the Government reconstitute these committees by taking persons who are locally influential and socially conscious? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" There is no objection to it."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" In view of the fact that very few of the recommendations of these committees are acted upon, may I request the Government to reconsider the question of abolishing them? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is a request to the Government."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் மதுவிலக்கு கமிட்டியில் இருக்கும் ஒரு எம்.எல்.ஏ. குடித்து விட்டு போலீஸ்காரர்களால் கைது செய்யப்பட்டு ஜாமீனில் விடுவிக்கப்பட்டது கனம் மந்திரிக்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That has nothing to do with this **question.** இந்தக்கேள்விக்கும் சபைமுன் இருக்கும் கேள்விக்கும் என்ன சம்பந்தம் இருக்கிறது ? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister for Prohibition aware of the fact that the recommendations made by the respective prohibition committees both at district headquarters and

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taluk headquarters are not given effect to by the Government, even though the recommendations are fit, safe, proper and not against the prohibition policy of the Government of Madras? ''

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—'' The District Superintendent of Police in the police prohibition districts and the District Prohibition Officer in the excise probihition districts are ex-officio secretaries of these committees and the recommendations and suggestions made by these committees are acted upon by them.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' My question has not been answered by the Hon. Minister for Prohibition. She has read only an old note prepared by her Secretary.''

Founder-Supervisor, Government Nandanar Institutions, Chidambaram.

* 115 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state whether any amount is paid in any form to the Founder-Supervisor for the Government Nandanar Institutions, Chidambaram?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—'' No.''

Supply of electricity to Badagara.

* 116 Q.—SRI K. MOIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state to what extent provision has been made in the Budget for extending electricity to the Badagara constituency ; and when the work will be started?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' A scheme for extension of supply of electric power to Badagara was evolved comparatively recently and has not yet been sanctioned. Even after sanction, it will have to await its turn for execution, in relation to other schemes sanctioned previously, and with reference to the availability of funds. No provision has therefore been made for the scheme in question in the current year's budget. The scheme is not likely to be executed in the near future.''

Lignite mines, Neyveli.

* 117 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the number of clerical and technical staff belonging to Madras State and outside Madras State employed in Neyveli lignite mines on 30th June 1953?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' A list[a] of technical, clerical and other staff employed in the lignite project at Neyveli as on 30th June 1953 is placed on the table of the House.''

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 285 infra.